

Remarks

Summary of Office Action

Claims 27-44 were pending in the application. Claims 39-44 were not considered as drawn to an unelected invention. Claims 27-38 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,637.

Applicant's Reply

Claims

Applicant has amended claims 32 -38 for clarity. Further, claims 39, 40 and 43, which the Examiner has previously identified as Group II claims, have been rewritten so that they now are dependent on or linked to claim 27 (Group I). Applicant also presents new claims 45-49 that depend on or are linked to claim 34 for examination. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims 39, 40, 43, and 45-49 now properly fall in Group I.

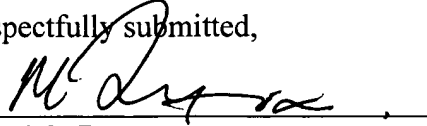
Double Patenting Rejection

Applicant submits a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) so that the term of the allowed patent claims in the instant application that may have doubly patented subject matter, does not extend beyond the term of any patent that will issue on commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 6,460,637. Applicant respectfully submits that the terminal disclaimer overcomes the nonstatutory double patenting rejection.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of which are requested. If there are any remaining issues to be resolved, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to kindly contact the undersigned attorney by telephone for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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